

~~14 October 1960~~

ORGANIZATION AND DELINEATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

PROJECT OXCART

1. General direction and control of the Project shall be exercised jointly by the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chief of Staff, USAF, subject to guidance from higher authority and coordination with other departments of the Government as appropriate. They shall furnish policy guidance to lower echelons, ensure the conformity of operations under the Project with national policy, and make recommendations to higher authority on matters transcending their own authority. Further, it shall be their joint responsibility to resolve differences that may arise at lower staff and operating levels.

2. The following are the organizational elements which shall be responsible for the conduct of the Project:

a. CIA

(1) There is in existence a Project Headquarters headed by a CIA Project Director. An Air Force officer is assigned as Deputy Project Director. Project Headquarters will establish an operational unit presently planned to be stationed in the Zone of Interior. This unit will be manned by USAF and CIA personnel in numbers, proportions, and skills as agreed between the Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer.

(2) All military personnel assigned to Central Intelligence for full-time duty on this Project will be carried on CIA rolls, chargeable to CIA for a projected minimum of three years.

b. Headquarters USAF

(1) Chief of Staff, USAF, has assigned supervisory responsibility to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations.

USAF review(s) completed.

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(2) The Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations has designated an Air Force Project Officer who, under the guidance and direction of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, will be the action officer and point of contact for all functions related to USAF interests in the project.

(3) In addition to the DCS/O Project Officer there has been established a Project Staff. This Staff includes selected officers designated by other interested Air Force staff agencies who will act as points of contact for the Project Officer within their several offices.

3. The functions and responsibilities of these elements will be as follows:

a. The CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer shall have primary responsibility for the development and execution of all activities concerning the Project within their own organizations; the resolution of differences that may arise at lower echelons; and the reporting of progress and the making of recommendations to their respective chiefs.

b. The Project Headquarters will be responsible for any continued research and development, operational planning, and the direction and control of activities in the final operational phase of the Project when overflights are being launched.

c. The Air Force Project Staff shall be responsible for implementing plans approved by the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer, and arranging for Air Force support of Project activities which can appropriately be furnished through staff channels or by other Air Force commands.

d. Security of this project within the DOD will be the responsibility of the Air Force Project Officer. All clearances for personnel within the DOD will be approved in advance and monitored by the Air Force Project Officer.

4. Activities under this Project fall into three phases. These overlap one another in time but may be distinguished on the basis of the kinds of activities involved in each. The following are the specific authorities and responsibilities of the several organizational elements in the successive phases of the Project:

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a. The first phase is that in which the major activities are: research and development, procurement, the construction and activation of a test and training base, the testing of equipment, and operational planning. The Project Director shall have control of these activities. The Air Force Project Officer will provide and coordinate necessary Air Force support. This will be a matter for informal agreement between the CIA Project Director and the Air Force Project Officer. Full and complete coordination of all Air Force elements during this phase is essential.

b. The second phase will be devoted to flight test and training. These activities will be conducted at the test and training base. The operational flight training will be conducted in accordance with syllabi and standards as mutually agreed between the CIA and the Air Force. Phase II terminates with the decision that crews and equipment are operationally ready.

c. The third phase will be that of active operations. This phase follows the decision as to operational readiness. The final decision as to execution and timing of actual overflight missions shall rest jointly with the CIA and the USAF, subject to such guidance as may be received from higher authority, and in accordance with notification, coordination, and support procedures currently employed in Project OILSTONE. The line of command shall be direct between operational units and the CIA.

5. Responsibility for the overall security of the program shall rest with CIA. In view of the security aspects of this project, it is important that maximum practicable compartmentation be maintained in both CIA and Air Force Headquarters. Compartmentation should include provision for logical, innocent explanation of the activities involved.

APPROVED FOR USAF:

APPROVED FOR CIA:

/s/ Thomas D. White

/s/ A.W. Dulles

Date 15 February 1960 1960

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